

Remarks

Claims 1-7, 10-20, and 25-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, 25, and 26 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

**I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 13 AND 25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 13 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the second paragraph due to insufficient antecedent basis. These claims have been amended herein to address the Examiner's concerns. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

**II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-7, AND 10-28 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103**

Claims 1-7, 10-20, and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,226,512 ("Macaulay"). Claims 1, 13, and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,416,831 ("Chewning"). All pending claims are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The inventions defined in independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26 are related to methods and computer-readable media for displaying a soft key label or processing a selection made from a menu in general. Independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26 have been amended herein to further clarify one of the features of the invention.

For example, independent claim 1 recites creating a message based on a menu selection, passing the message to a menu processing object, and creating an event based on the menu selection by the menu processing object. Claim 1 further requires, *inter alia*, that "*while the plane display is being changed, the soft key is deactivated.*" According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention,

"[W]hen the line plane changes, a "wiper" comes across the display area. During this animation, the soft keys are grayed out (for typically ¼ to ½ second) so that the user cannot use those keys. When the plane is displayed and the animation is complete, the key labels are displayed in an active state. This prevents invalid events from occurring from having a user press soft keys before the system is ready to process the event."

See, for example, page 25, lines 9-15 of the present specification. Other independent claims 13, and 25-26 have recitations similar to those of claim 1. For example, independent claim 13 requires that "*while the text strings are being changed, the one of the plurality of the*

soft key label sets is deactivated.” Support for the amendments is found at, for example, page 25, lines 9-15. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

None of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above-identified aspect of the invention recited in independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26, i.e., that the soft key is deactivated *while* the plane display is being changed, or while the text strings are being changed.

In the Macaulay patent, *after* a triggering event occurs (e.g., calling function WAUdisplay), a soft key button is relabeled (e.g., relabeled as ‘TNFO’). See, Macaulay, column 8, lines 1-13. However, Macaulay’s sequence of displaying different labels does not suggest in any way the claimed temporary deactivation *while* the display is being changed. In fact, the Macaulay patent is not concerned with the time period during which the display is being changed. Macaulay merely describes various relationships between one display before a change, and another display after the change. Macaulay is silent on a transition period between the two displays, during which a soft key is deactivated according to the present invention.

Similarly, the Chewning patent also fails to suggest the claimed temporary deactivation of a soft key *while* the plane display is being changed. The cited portions of the Chewning patent (e.g., column 28, lines 23-38) merely suggests a sequence of different displays triggered by a key press.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26 are believed to be patentable over the cited art. The Examiner’s rejections of the dependent claims are respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution, all of these claims will not be argued separately. Other claims each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26, and therefore, are respectfully submitted to be patentable over cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 13, and 25-26.

**III. CONCLUSION**

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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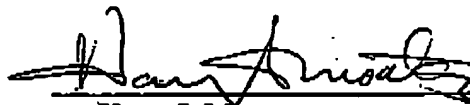
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**Expires: January 2, 2007**



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